



**WARTBURG
CENTRAL
BEATS JELICO**
‘DAWGS ROUGH UP DEVILS

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**SHARING
THE PAST**
MEMORIES
OF MORGAN
COUNTY TORNADO

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Yager battling prostate cancer

BY DAMON LAWRENCE
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State Sen. Ken Yager, R-Kingston, announced on Twitter this week that he’s been diagnosed with prostate cancer.



Ken Yager

“I have a great team of doctors who have put me on a good course of treatment,” Yager said via his Twitter post. “Malinda and I are in good spirits and optimistic.”

Yager was elected to six terms as Roane County executive. He finished his final term in 2006 and was elected senator of the state’s 12th District two years later. The district comprises Roane, Morgan, Campbell, Fentress, Rhea, Pickett and Scott counties.

SEE **YAGER/PAGE A2**

Heritage Festival a success

Heritage is an integral part of Morgan County. This past Saturday, the Morgan County Heritage Festival took place at Frozen Head State Park as Morgan Countians far and wide witnessed exhibits that hearkened back to the early halcyon days of Morgan County and how it came to be what it is today.

In addition to the

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Tornado exhibit on display

BY GREG WILKERSON
MORGAN COUNTY NEWS

Twenty years ago a tornado went through the Mossy Grove, Joyner and Petros communities, killing seven people and leaving 121 homes damaged or destroyed.

The Morgan County Genealogical & Historical Society (MCGHS) has a new exhibit remembering the 2002 tornado with artifacts and displays at the museum at 121 N. Kingston St. in Wartburg.

“It was such a big thing here, a big event, and we just want people to remember it, and remember those who passed away, those who were hurt, and those who

had to rebuild and those that helped,” said Barbara Langley with MCGHS.

“It’s our history. It’s something that happened here and it was just such a big ordeal. It’s just something that needs to be remembered. The people need to be remembered.”

The exhibit will continue through November, open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

In addition to the displays, they will have people on hand at times who were there during the tornado, and can share their stories from that night.

SEE **TORNADO/PAGE A4**



Photos submitted

Above left: Morgan County News issue from Nov. 14, 2002, on display at the museum. **Above right:** The Morgan County Genealogical & Historical Society has a new exhibit remembering the 2002 tornado at the museum in Wartburg.



A member of one of the Coalfield little league football teams waves to the town during the Coalfield Homecoming Parade on Saturday.

Parade shows off community pride

BY BRODY JONES
MORGAN COUNTY NEWS

Homecoming is always a joyous time in the Coalfield community. This past Saturday was no exception as long-time community residents, ones who had moved away, old, and young all enjoyed

the sights and sounds of the homecoming parade.

The day’s festivities started with a community breakfast, followed by the sights and sounds of the Coalfield Community Parade that took place in the main part of town by the school with

plenty of candy tossed for children to enjoy and various local churches, police and fire departments, classic cars, and even a few race cars making their way through town.

Following the parade, local merchants set up their wares with plenty of local

food trucks and community members selling arts, crafts, T-shirts, and everything in-between.

The Coalfield Homecoming has long been an October tradition and event planners are already gearing up for next year’s festivities.

Rep. Windle visits Communities in Schools program at WCHS

BY SUBMITTED

Rep. John Mark Windle recently visited Wartburg Central High School to learn more about the Communities in Schools of Tennessee (CIS of Tennessee) program an affiliate of the national organization working to ensure every student, regardless of race, zip code or history of marginalization has what they need to succeed in school and beyond. CIS of

Tennessee works with Wartburg and three other high schools in Morgan County: Coalfield, Oakdale and Sunbright.

All four of the CIS of Tennessee site coordinators (Mandi Jonquet at Wartburg, Kalea Derry at Coalfield, Courtney Boido at Sunbright, and Cameron Bruse at Oakdale) met with Rep. Windle to

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WCHS principal Jason Davis, WCHS Site Coordinator Mandi Steelman-Jonquet, Sunbright Site Coordinator Courtney Boido, Coalfield Site Coordinator Kalea Derry, Oakdale Site Coordinator Cameron Bruse, CEO of Communities in Schools Samantha Wigand, East TN Program Manager Milicent Fritts and State Rep. John Mark Windle.

Photo submitted

FAITH

Being ‘down but not out’ a great attribute

We should always express thanks to God and to the people who have helped us achieve success. We should reflect upon the success, determine what we and others did to achieve it, and then work to duplicate it.

At the same time, it is just as important to reflect upon our defeats or failures. In effect, diagram them like we diagram sentences when studying grammar. An explanation of sentence diagramming is “It helps you identify how the parts of a sentence work together. It provides a deeper understanding of the function that words play in sentences. This can help make your own writing clearer and free of grammatical errors.”

Applying this concept when looking at defeats or failures is how you begin to determine their reasons and what you need to do to rise above them. Overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds to rise above defeats or failures is one of the greatest feelings you can experience.

We all have some setbacks in our lives in various ways at various times. However, we all can learn from them and build upon them. I recommend three “Rs” to consider as you personally deal with some setbacks — or as you help someone else to get back on track after getting derailed.

Be Receptive. Face up to what knocked you down. It may not have been your fault at all. Maybe someone else was responsible.

But if it was your fault, don’t rationalize it away. Accept responsibility. Whatever the case, if you are alive, defeat or failure is going to come.

You may say, “Yes, but it seems I have experienced more than my fair share!” We all have probably felt like that at times.

Shakespeare covered this common feeling in Hamlet with the words, “When sorrows come, they come not in single spies, but in battalions.” So don’t feel as if you are the only person ever to suffer adversity. To be receptive to the reality of defeat or failure, it is important that you uncover the reason for it before you move on to its resolution.

Be Resourceful. “Resources” are the things available to achieve an end; a supply that can be drawn from; skills; available assets; abilities. Therefore, being resourceful means taking things where they are and making the most of them with what you have. Take a lingering look at yourself. Knowing your strengths, abilities and resources is vital during this inspection. With this self-knowledge, ignite a winning attitude and creativity.

Be Resurgent. This means to rise again when you have been knocked down. Many

accomplishments have been built on previous defeats or failures. Being “down but not out” is one of the greatest attributes you can possess. Ludwig Van Beethoven rose above deafness to compose majestic music. John Milton overcame blindness to write words of depth and beauty. Helen Keller, who could neither see, hear nor speak, achieved victory that few people can even imagine. This is what resurgence is all about. To be resurgent, you must not feel sorry for yourself or engage in a lifelong pity party. It’s okay to feel down for a while and to shed some tears.

That’s normal. But there is no reason to remain there. There comes a time to shake it off, call upon your assets, and step forward. In summary, look at your life. Inspect your strengths and abilities. Focus on your interests. Consider your available resources. Do your homework. Appreciate yourself and others. Embrace enthusiasm and excitement. Do these things, paying attention to your spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health — and you can be receptive, resourceful, and resurgent.

Carl Mays, National Speakers Hall of Fame member and author of over a dozen books, including A Strategy For Winning (foreword by national champion football coach Lou Holtz). CarlMays.com.



CARL
MAYS

Have nose, will snore

Having been married as long as The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and myself, there are very few things we disagree.

Our relationship has been very calm except for a few bumps.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is what I call a Vegetable Freak, whereas, on the other side of the kitchen table, I’m just a Freak.

Probably, the biggest controversy we have, which has been with us ever since we were married, has to do with snoring. But, for some reason, I know not why, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage assumes that I snore every night.

Often in the middle of the night, I will feel a sharp elbow in my Adam ribs and hear somebody say, “Stop your snoring.” For the life of me I have no idea what she’s talking about.

She will confront me in the morning over breakfast with the idea that I snore at night.

“You know how miserable it makes me to hear you snoring all night?”

For some reason, she has the idea that snoring is bad for your health.

“Don’t you know it’s not healthy to snore at night like you do?”

One night I got up and went to the kitchen to get a drink of water. Then, walking down the hallway to the bedroom, I heard this raspy noise. As I got to my bedroom, here it was, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage snoring. I only regret that I did not tape that incident because it would have been worth a lot to me.

When we got up in the morning, I was chuckling, and looking at me, she said, “Why are you laughing?”

Do I tell her, or do I pass it off?

Being who I am, I actually did tell her.

She glared at me and said most vocally, “I do

not snore, and I don’t want to hear you tell me that ever again.”

I chuckled inwardly and was waiting for

some excuse to tell her again.

Then I saw it. A little Facebook report said that contrary to what people have believed, snoring is a very healthy thing for your body. According to this

investigation, the bigger you are, the more you need to snore.

In sharing this new information with my wife, she was not very sympathetic. “That cannot be right,” she said most defiantly. “Snoring is not healthy.”

Then I showed her the story and even read it, and she did not want to believe it.

I looked at her and said, “It must be true because it’s on Facebook.”

Looking at me she said, “You believe everything you read on Facebook?”

“Well,” I said as soberly as possible, “I believe this one for sure.”

When we went to bed that night, I looked at her and said, “I’m going to have a very healthy night tonight.”

She didn’t smile, but I did.

As I drifted off to la-la-land, I thought of a scripture. Amos 3:3, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

It is quite rare when two people agree on everything. It is important that we agree on the right things. We can have our difference but there are crucial issues where we must agree. Every relationship is based on discovering those issues and committing ourselves to them.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamessnyderministries.com.



DR. JAMES L.
SNYDER

Plans have begun on Together Morgan County’s 3rd Annual Christmas Drive Thru

BY SANDRA HELTON

The Morgan County Community Collaborative known as Together Morgan County is making plans for their Third Annual Christmas Drive Thru. This will be a Free Drive Thru Event for Families on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022 at Frozen Head State Park from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. All safety precautions will be in place allowing families to enjoy this holiday event from the safety of their car. Scenes “Christmas in the Cumberlands” will be created by Morgan County organizations. As guests drive along the route, they can view

each scene and enjoy the creativity of the participants. Be prepared to see scenes depicting Country Christmases from the past.

Together Morgan County welcomes all businesses, organizations, churches and school groups to join us in providing holiday cheer to Morgan County Families. Anyone interested in creating a scene can contact Sandra Helton at heltons@mcsed.net for more information.

Gus the Bus will once again be at the beginning of the drive thru. Peggy Hamby and her elves will hand out hot chocolate and snacks.

Anyone wishing to donate for this give away can contact Ms. Peggy at hambyp@mcsed.net.

For those who would like to participate in another way, donations are being accepted of items to be given away. Some suggestions for items are food/toiletries/necessities for families or books, coloring books, pencils/crayons, stuffed animals for children. These are only ideas. “Elves” that would like to assist with distribution are welcome to do so. Also, anyone wishing to assist with traffic control, handing out programs or help-

ing with set up/break down of scenes would be appreciated. This is an excellent opportunity for young people to earn service hours.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to do a scene, donate items or volunteer on the day of the event. It is appreciated and when working together, we can do more.

Together Morgan County is excited to work with everyone to make this a memorable event for families. Please share this post on your social media as well as with your schools, churches and local businesses.

PROGRAM

FROM PAGE A1

discuss their work to establish one-on-one relationships with students and help them navigate issues and move beyond barriers in the classroom, at home and in the community. CIS of Tennessee site coordinators are based at their respective schools and work with local service providers to help connect students and families with critical resources like food, clothing, housing, healthcare, counseling, transportation and more.

Mandi Jonquet, the site coordinator at Wartburg, showed Rep. Windle the hygiene and clothes closets that she maintains at the school so that students who need clothing or supplies are able to access what they need. The site coordinators also discussed the social-emotional and behavior issues that they see with students and how they work with students to overcome those challenges. The site coordinators also highlighted their respective college and career readiness activities.

Jonquet was able to personally thank Rep. Windle for his office’s help in making sure that one of her students who graduated last year was able to go to college. She recounted the story of a student who was applying to TCAT as a senior but needed his birth certificate — and the courthouse didn’t have one on file that matched his name. She found out his real father’s last name and went back to ask again using that name — but was told they couldn’t share it because his mom owned money.

“We were literally pulling our hair out, trying to figure out what we were going to do, what our next step was,” Jonquet said.

A cousin advised her to call Rep. Windle’s office and his staff person immediately told her that the state should not be withholding his birth certificate because the mom owed money and intervened to help clear up the issue.

“His staff was amazing... if they had not stepped in and held me, we would probably never have gotten anything accomplished,” Jonquet noted.

Correct birth certificate in hand, Jonquet

was able to take the student to the social security office and to get his driver’s license so he could get back and forth to TCAT, where he is thriving today.

“Having to tell a kid that their real name is something different than what they’ve gone by for 18 years

is heartbreaking... it was just a whirlwind of emotions,” Jonquet said. “If he hadn’t come up that he wanted to go to college, which I pushed him to do because he is such a good student to do something, he would’ve never known that his name was changed.”

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